

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CPR-01 SY-05 JUSE-00 FBIE-00

SCCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /063 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6225

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, UR, UN, US

SUBJECT: HARASSMENT OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK

1. AMBASSADOR MALIK HAS JUST RETURNED TO NEW YORK FROM ATTENDANCE AT PARTY CONGRESS IN MOSCOW. I TELEPHONED HIM THIS MORNING TO WELCOME HIM BACK AND TO EXPRESS REGRETS OVER LATEST INCIDENT OF HARASSMENT OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES, LAST MIDNIGHT'S BOMB EXPLOSION AT OFFICE OF AEROFLOT ON FIFTH AVENUE. FOR MY EFFORTS, I GOT A LONG HARANGUE FROM MALIK.

2. MALIK WENT ON AT LENGTH AND WITH CONSIDERABLE REPETITION TO EXPRESS HIS INDIGNATION OVER RECENT SERIES OF INCIDENTS DIRECTED AT SOVIET PERSONNEL AND ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK. HE REFERRED NUMEROUS TIMES TO HOOLIGANS AND GANGSTERS AND ASSERTED THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS A POWERFUL COUNTRY WHICH COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT ALL THIS IF IT WANTED TO. HE WAS AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND OUR INACTION; HOW COULD WE CALL OURSELVES A CIVILIZED COUNTRY AND ALLOW THESE THINGS TO HAPPEN? THIS SORT OF ACTIVITY COULD NOT BE RECONCILED WITH OUR CLAIMS TO BE A CIVILIZED COUNTRY. HE RUMBLED ON AND ON.

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3. IN EXPRESSING REGRET OVER AEROFLOT BOMBING, I MADE

POINT THAT I WAS GLAD PRESENCE OF POLICEMEN ON DUTY IN FRONT OF ENTRANCE HAD RESULTED IN BOMB BEING PLACED ON SIDE STREET (ACTUALLY AT COMMERCIAL ENTRANCE TO BUILDING) SO THAT DAMAGE TO AEROFLOT OFFICES WAS LIMITED TO BREAKING OF ONE WINDOW. MALIK PAID NO ATTENTION TO THIS POINT, AND I DOUBT IT EVEN IMPINGED ON HIS COMPLAINT MECHANISM, WHICH WAS RUNNING AT FULL SPEED.

4. HE AFFECTED AT FIRST TO BE UNAWARE OF DISPATCH OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL AGENTS TO NEW YORK TO ASSIST IN SECURITY OF SOVIET PERSONNEL. ON MY INSISTENCE HE GRUDINGLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MEETING AT SOVIET MISSION THIS MORNING IN THAT REGARD, BUT HE COMMENTED THAT "MEETING HAD PRODUCED NO RESULTS." I TOLD MALIK I COULD UNDERSTAND HIS INDIGNATION OVER THIS SERIES OF UNACCEPTABLE INCIDENTS, BUT CONSIDERED HE WAS BEING UNFAIR IN SAYING NOTHING WAS BEING DONE. THE SENDING OF TRAINED SECURITY OPERATIVES FROM WASHINGTON INDICATED THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS APPROACHING THE WHOLE PROBLEM. HE MUST BE AS AWARE AS I THAT WE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT THERE WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE AN INCIDENT ANYWHERE AT ANY TIME, BUT I WANTED HIM TO BE ASSURED THAT WE INTENDED TO DO EVERYTHING WE COULD TO CONTROL THE SITUATION AND PROVIDE PROPER PROTECTION TO SOVIET PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY. HE AGAIN INSISTED THAT WE COULD STOP ALL THIS HOOLIGANISM AND GANGSTERISM IF WE WANTED TO, BUT HE DID CONCLUDE THE CONVERSATION BY THANKING ME FOR THE CALL. BENNETT

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